

else can so subscribe? I know of nothing. So on this rock we found our hopes and yearnings. Whatever happens, back we will come, stronger, more vibrant, more invincible, more powerful than ever, led, it may be, by some great voice from among us filled with the intense clairvoyancy of Descartes, and proving that he was right when he said:

"If ever the human race is lifted to its highest practicable level intellectually, morally and physically, the medical profession will perform that service."

DISCUSSION OF PAPERS OF DOCTORS HALL AND MCBRAYER
(IN PART ONLY)

Dr. George H. Kress, Los Angeles: Doctor Hall has given us a very keen analysis of certain conditions which are of vital importance to the future of medical practice in America. I wish to thank him for this splendid analysis and also for the suggestions of future action which are indicated both in and between the lines of his paper.

He tells us of conditions as he has observed them in the industrial State of West Virginia. His picture fits in very well with some of the experiences we have had in California. We have been much distressed with certain drifts in medical practice in our state, and the officers of the California Medical Association have given considerable study to ways and means whereby undesirable features of modern-day medical practice might be overcome.

One of our officers, Dr. Walter Coffey of San Francisco, recently brought to our attention a plan that seemed to us to have many commendable features.

As we see this problem, the well-to-do citizens and very poor citizens are almost always assured of good medical care. The rich can choose whom they desire for medical advisers, and the poor receive a very high grade of medical care from members of the attending staffs of public hospitals. The in-between class of citizens, the so-called white-collar brigade, seem to be the greatest sufferers, because with the present high cost of living, with all its modern-day comforts and luxuries, there is usually very little money left to pay hospital expenses or doctors' fees. If a plan could be put into operation to give proper care to this class of citizens, much of the cry about the high cost of medical care would not be heard.

The opening editorial of the November issue of our official journal, California and Western Medicine, is a statement which I was instructed to write by the Council of the California Medical Association, and which is entitled "A California Plan to Combat State Medicine—Important Notice."

That was a somewhat high-sounding caption, but it was used to call the attention of members of the California Medical Association to certain drifts in medical practice and to caution individual members to make no contracts, because the Association's officers were considering ways and means of safeguarding the rights of all members.

In the plan proposed by Doctor Coffey, who is the chief surgeon of the Southern Pacific Railroad, and which he submitted as a basis for discussion, it is proposed to bring into being an organization that will act as the trustee or business agent of its members. These members will send their bills for professional services to the trustee organization, which organization will collect from employers the money which will guarantee skilled medical care to employees and the families of employees. The employees are to be permitted to make their own choice of physicians as at present. In other words, every effort will be made to continue private practice along the same lines as at present, except that the central or trustee organization will collect the moneys and then reimburse the physicians.

Our legal advisers are making a study on different plans whereby such a central or trustee organization may be brought into being. There are, of course, many obstacles facing us, but our Association is prepared to spend money to find out ways and means whereby the interests and standards of medical practice may be maintained in California. There seems to be a general impression among the officers of the California Medical Association that if the medical profession does not find a solution of some of these problems that some kind of a plan will be thrust on it under lay influence and domination, and which could be so harmful that medical practice, as we now understand it, would receive a serious blow.

We are not prepared to give out details concerning the plans we have in mind because they are still in what might be called a preparatory stage. We are hopeful, however, that we may be able to devise ways and means that will place scientific medicine in its proper place before the citizens of California. We believe it will be possible to give the highest type of medical and surgical service to citizens of less than \$2500 yearly income, at the same time protecting in fullest measure the rights of the individual practitioner, and permitting also the development of a stronger and larger California Medical Association. We have no desire to engage in reckless experiments, but we are convinced that something must be done, and that talking in the abstract or in platitudes will not solve our problems. We intend to carry on our investigations. If we can find a legal and ethical plan of organization that will permit us to maintain medical standards, and also protect the economic interests of

physicians, while at the same time we can give as good and, we hope, a better service to the patients under discussion, then it is our intention to use our best endeavors to put such a plan into operation. If that should come to pass, our state journal will give ample publicity to the matter.

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Dr. H. O. Reik, Atlantic City, N. J.: In my humble opinion as an editor, these are the two most remarkable contributions that have been made to this conference of secretaries and editors during the past several years.

I have no intention of trying to discuss the various problems introduced in those papers. I think that the two papers give us food for thought for a long time to come, because they express so clearly and so succinctly the great problem that confronts the medical profession today; a problem which is not duly appreciated by the vast majority of the members of the profession. I wish it were possible to compel every practicing physician to read both these papers.

While I cannot, because time does not permit and I haven't the ability to, discuss the technical details of these papers, I do want to take advantage of the opportunity to pay a tribute of respect to the two authors. I appreciate Doctor McBrayer's temerity in offering a solution, which is apparently a good one; it may be the correct one, the best one. That remains to be seen. His reference to President Harris' several papers on this subject is timely, and we should pay attention to them.

I want to pay even a higher tribute of respect, if Doctor McBrayer will permit, to Doctor Hall for the presentation of his paper. He is the first man, I think, among us who has had the courage to stand here and tell us not only the truth, but the whole truth. He must have anticipated when preparing the paper that he would give us entertainment and amusement in his criticisms of big business, but he must also have anticipated that he would make us squirm when he criticized members of the profession and their acts, and it is for that particular part of his paper that I want particularly to express thanks. This morning, at the breakfast table, I confessed to my chief that I have in my desk several papers and editorials, some of which represented my best thought, that I had not had the courage to print. Doctor Hall has given me some moral support today. I think he is the "noblest Roman among us all."

PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION

In the current issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is printed an editorial dealing with narcotic laws, and therein the suggestion is made that members of the California, Nevada, and Utah medical associations write to their respective Senators and Congressmen to secure copies of the proposed Porter Narcotic Law, which is known as "H. R. 9054." For the convenience of members who wish to cooperate along this line, the names of the Senators and Congressmen from these three states are here printed. An easy method of address for United States Senators or Congressmen would be as follows:

Hon. Hiram W. Johnson
U. S. Senator from California
Washington, D. C.
Hon. Clarence F. Lea
Congressman from California
Washington, D. C.

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CALIFORNIA

Senators

Hon. Hiram W. Johnson of San Francisco.
Hon. Samuel M. Shortridge of Menlo Park.

Congressmen

Hon. Clarence F. Lea of Santa Rosa.
Hon. Harry L. Englebright of Nevada City.
Hon. C. F. Curry of Sacramento.
Hon. Florence P. Kahn of San Francisco.
Hon. Richard J. Welch of San Francisco.
Hon. Albert E. Carter of Oakland.
Hon. Henry E. Barbour of Fresno.
Hon. Arthur Monroe Free of San Jose.
Hon. W. E. Evans of Glendale.
Hon. Joe Crail of Los Angeles.
Hon. Phil D. Swing of El Centro.

NEVADA

Senators

Hon. Key Pittman of Tonopah.
Hon. Tasker L. Oddie of Reno.

Congressman

Hon. Samuel S. Arentz of Simpson.

UTAH

Senators

Hon. William H. King of Salt Lake.
Hon. Reed Smoot of Provo.

Congressmen

Hon. Don B. Colton of Vernal.
Hon. Elmer O. Leatherwood of Salt Lake City.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. III, No. 3, March 1905

From some editorial notes:

... *Our State Legislators.*—It is rumored that the legislators at Sacramento have gone crazy, and there seems to be some ground for the rumor. The anti-vaccination bill passed the Senate and we learn that it is very liable to pass the Assembly though, at the time of writing, the final result is not known. . . .

... *Bind Your Journals.*—Do you not wish to have your volumes of the journal bound and preserve them for future reference? Remember, these volumes are the full transactions of the state society and also the transactions of most of the county societies.

... *Danger in X-Ray Exposure.*—A warning against the haphazard and indiscriminate use of the x-ray by inexperienced operators seems particularly opportune at this time, as the lay press of San Francisco has so recently published the case of the unfortunate Mrs. Fleishman-Aschheim, whose arm was amputated, a few weeks ago, for an epitheliomatous degeneration caused by repeated exposure to these rays. Dr. Philip Mills Jones, the pioneer of this work on the Pacific Coast, suffered from x-ray burn of the hand as early as 1896; and though in 1900 he gave up this work entirely, even at the present writing trophic and degenerative changes are going on in that important member of his anatomy. . . .

... *The Relation of the American Medical Association to Medical Advertising.*—(A Statement by the Publication Committee).—Probably only a few of the members of our society know that the advertising pages of the *Journal A. M. A.* have been the subject of criticism almost continuously for more than ten years past. That our members may know that we have not acted alone nor without sufficient consideration in the criticisms which have been made in the state journal, it has been thought wise to place before you a brief summary of the facts as they are to be found recorded in the pages of the *Journal A. M. A.* . . .

From an article on "Neurasthenia in Childhood" by Hubert N. Rowell, M.D., Berkeley:

We are indebted to the late Dr. George M. Beard for the first comprehensive description of this disease, which he presented some twenty-five years ago. In so doing he adduced nothing original, and nothing which had not been observed by others, decades before; but, grouping an array of nervous phenomena into one composite photograph, he introduced into our nosology the term "neurasthenia" in lieu of what had formerly been known as nervous prostration or nervous exhaustion. . . .

* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

From an article on "The Surgical Treatment of Chronic Tonsillitis" by J. A. Black, M.D., San Francisco:

For many years this subject would cover but a small space on paper, as it was considered that the surgeon had done all that was required of him when, by means of a tonsillotome, he had removed what showed of an hypertrophied tonsil, and probably with it a good portion of the anterior or posterior pillars, creating so much of an after-disturbance in the throat that no singer or public speaker would submit to removal of the tonsils for fear of a total or partial loss of the speaking or singing voice. . . .

From an article on "The Effects of Tonsillotomy" by W. B. Stevens, M.D., San Francisco:

The effects of tonsillotomy naturally fall into two groups:

First—The immediate or those closely succeeding the operation, and which are for the most part transient; and

Second—The ultimate, which are more or less permanent. . . .

From an article on "Some Remarks on Gonorrhea in Women" by Beverly MacMonagle, M.D., San Francisco:

The fact that gonorrhea produces the most serious and profound changes in the pelvic organs cannot be too strongly insisted upon.

Its frequency is difficult to state; it varies, both in localities and in great cities, within wide limits, so that it is impossible to formulate any statement that can have any general application. . . .

From an article on "Flies as Carriers of Contagion" by George H. Aiken, M.D., Fresno:

For a physician to have presented this subject to the medical profession twenty years ago would have been to invite ridicule with criticism, but thank God we have made advancement since that time. . . .

From an article on "Aseptic Catheterization of the Urinary Passages" by M. Krotoszyner, M.D., and W. P. Willard, M.D., San Francisco:

In treating the subject of aseptic catheterization, we must consider the sterilization of catheters, the preparation of the urinary channel, and the introduction of the instruments in an aseptic manner. . . .

From an article on "The Sanitary Needs of the State" by N. K. Foster, M.D., Sacramento:

That government best serves its subjects which gives to them the largest measure of protection in all their rights and privileges. If "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" are inalienable rights, the means of acquiring and preserving them are also. . . .

From miscellaneous items:

"Mother Mary." Now, who is this Mrs. Eddy? She is Mrs. Mary Moss Baker Glover Patterson Eddy. Mrs. Eddy has had three husbands, and the last one, she says, "died of arsenical poisoning mentally administered." . . . —Dr. O. T. Osborne. . . .

An Opinion From Virginia.—"We are very much in sympathy with that excellent and high-class publication, *The California State Journal of Medicine*, in its severe arraignment of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for ethical laxity, if not for its gross violation of ethics. . . .

. . . —*The Southern Clinic* (February, 1905). . . .

From Medical Society Reports:

Pasadena Branch, Los Angeles County.—At a meeting of the Pasadena branch of the Los Angeles County Medical Association at which there were thirty members present out of an enrollment of forty-two, the